

Cygnets Newsletter

June 2013

From the Captain

It has been a while since you've received a newsletter from us, and a lot has happened since then.

Coaching...

Andy Hale has been our coach since the winter season, and he continues coaching both the novice and the senior crews at weekends. Andy got 2 8's in excellent shape prior to the Head of the River Race with the Senior 8+ having a good race in terrible conditions in this year's Hammersmith Head before both that crew and a burgeoning Novice 8 were disappointed not to row when the Head of the River was ultimately cancelled because of the same continued bad weather. That training however proved an excellent launch pad to the season. In addition, Nick Rowett has returned from his winter hide-out in South Africa, and he has been coaching both the senior and novice crews during weekday outings and we've welcomed Jenny Hutton to the club coaching across the squad.

Racing...

As I mentioned at the squad meeting, our main aim for the 2013 season was to get as many of the active squad enjoying racing ASAP and Cygnets strongly represented at all the regattas. After the disappointment of the cancellation of the Eights Head end of March, I am delighted that our Novices joined the Senior squad, and hit the regatta circuit with a vengeance, racing at Hammersmith, Twickenham, and Barnes & Mortlake regattas, with an adventure with BBLRC in the mixed fours at Borne @ Chiswick Bridge Regatta. At Hammersmith regatta Dan, Jeremy, Stavros and Kevin, coxed by Sharon Leow reported a tough race and came up against some strong competition and tough conditions but got us racing at the first opportunity. Since then most of the active squad have gone on to compete (David French, Bart de Groot, Gavin Hunter, Paul Persad and Nick Bates in IM1 4-, and the Bates/French Senior 2- taking a pot at Twickenham. Many of the Novice squad in 4+s, Phil Simpson & Jeremy Pugh in the 2x AND 1xs as well as Neil Pickford and Laurent Couacaud. Crucially, all the crews have reported development thanks for the coaching they have received and their own efforts and we look forward to the racing over the remainder of the season.

I'd also like to welcome our new cox, Lou Johnson, who is doing an excellent job navigating us safely on the Tideway; not an easy thing to do if you've never rowed or even been involved in rowing before. I hope that you will join me in welcoming her to the club, and help her out wherever we can to ensure she continues to enjoy coxing at Cygnets. She certainly got off to a great start with a narrow (3 feet) defeat to a Molesey IM1 4+ at Twickenham.

Finally...

Thoughts have turned to summer proper, and with it Henley Royal Regatta. Our coxless four of Bart de Groot, Gavin Hunter, David French and Nick Bates has been entered into the Wyfold Challenge Cup and we look forward to representing the club.

Our Club President and his wife Pat have invited club members again to their garden along the Henley Course; Marj is coordinating the usual picnic, where Cygnets bring the drinks, and BBLadies bring salads, so do get in touch with her if you intend to join in!

Nick Bates

Subscriptions and Donations

Are always due, please return this tear-off slip with your cheque to the Treasurer, Dr R P du Parcq, 39 White Hart Lane, London SW13 0PU. Active Members: members of the Civil Service Sports Council - £230.00, Others - £314.00; Club Friends: Suggested minimum - £15.00.

Enclosed my subscription/donation for £.....

Your name _____

Your address: _____

Post Code: _____

Your CSSC number (if you're a member of CSSC) _____

From the Secretary

ACTIVE MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET TO GIVE ME YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS/NEXT OF KIN DETAILS, FOR OUR RECORDS AND YOUR SAFETY.

To streamline our communications to you, can you please take some time to fill in the following questionnaire and send it to me, or the treasurer, whichever is most convenient. We'll then ensure that the details are entered in our club database, with due consideration to keeping your personal data safe from misuse.

I'd like to receive the newsletter by post/email*

I'd like to receive the weekly club news by email yes/no*

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Post Code: _____

Your email address: _____

*Please delete as appropriate

Please send to **Marjorie Israel, 49 Oaklands Avenue, Osterley, TW7 5PY**, or email relevant details to: **marjorie_israel'at'hotmail.com**. You can also add this slip to your subs payment note to Dr R P du Parcq, Hon Treasurer, details overleaf.

300 Club

Many of you will be aware of what the 300 Club is and its significance to Cygnet and importance in making sure we have top notch boats and kit in general. But if you're not, read all about it here <http://cygnet-rc.org.uk/drupal/node/2680>.

The 300 Club is basically the club's fundraising lottery. Club members, friends and family buy tickets at £10.00 a go and we hold 10 draws annually where owners of the tickets have the chance to win cash prizes. Part of the money raised in ticket sales funds the prizes and the rest comes to the club to make sure we retain one of the best fleets on the tideway.

We aim to bring new life to the 300 Club after a couple of quieter years and we will have a team of 3 people to remind people each year why the club is a good thing and to push ticket sales. I'll be doing this for the Senior squad, Geordie for the Vets and I am looking for a newer member to do this for the Novice squad. Our novice intake continues to grow so if you're looking for the chance to contribute a bit more to the club (and it's not much as you'll learn, just the odd reminder round the bar periodically) then this is a great chance.

Please give me a shout (nickrbates'at'yahoo.co.uk) if you're interested so I can fill you in with more detail.

Nick Bates

Cygnet of Honour

We are very proud to report that our club member John Ellis and his wife Di Ellis CBE (until April Chairman of British Rowing) both received the British Rowing Medal of Honour for 2013.

'The Medal of Honour which was introduced in 1987 is British Rowing's highest award. It is awarded for Outstanding Service to Rowing and is not presented lightly.

We thought to treat you all to a picture of John with his Medal of Honour.

